

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, reconsideration of the claim rejections of the Office Action dated September 7, 2006 is respectfully requested by Applicant.

Summary

Claims 16-19 and 27-30 were rejected.

Claim Rejections

Claims 27, 16, 17, 19, 28, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatenable over German 41 07 854 (German '854) in view of either Faidley (U.S. Pat. No. 2,986,649) or Umezawa (U.S. Pat. No. 4,740, 726).

Claim 27 recites a wet treatment nozzle comprising, *inter alia*, a pressure controller that maintains a difference between a pressure of the treatment liquid in contact with the object to be treated and an atmospheric pressure, so that the treatment liquid wet treats only a portion of the object to be treated to which the treatment liquid is supplied.

Applicant respectfully submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established because the cited references fail to teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

German '854 fails to disclose a pressure controller that maintains a difference between a pressure of the treatment liquid in contact with the object to be treated and an atmospheric pressure. German '854 teaches a contrary arrangement. German '854 teaches "[b]ecause the sealing lips 3 are resting against the wall 5, an egress of the treatment liquid 9 from the housing is prevented" (translation page 3, lines 19 – 20). There is no suggestion or motivation of a pressure controller in German '854. In contrast, German '854 inherently teaches that there is no need for a pressure controller because the sealing lips 3 prevent the egress of the treatment liquid 9 from the housing 1. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable over German '854.

Faidley and Umezawa fail to disclose at least a pressure controller that maintains a difference between a pressure of the treatment liquid in contact with the object to be

treated and an atmospheric pressure. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 27 is also allowable over the cited references for additional reasons that are independent of those discussed above. Claim 27 is allowable because there is no motivation or suggestion to provide a weight on the housing of German '854. In fact, providing a weight on the housing of German '854 teaches against the intended purpose of German '854. German '854 is designed to be sealed to a side wall surface (Figure 1). Adding a weight to the housing of German '854 does not increase the "efficiency and stability of the transducer and the efficiency [sic] of the sonic transmission (Office action dated September 7, 2006; page 3). In fact, the weight would make it harder to maintain a seal on the wall. Accordingly, claim 27 is allowable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 16, 17, 19, 28, 29, and 30 depend from allowable claim 27, so are allowable for at least the same reasons.


The Examiner has rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied references as applied to claim 27, and further in view of Eppes (U.S. Pat. 4,764,021). Eppes fails to teach or suggest the arrangement of claim 27 as discussed above. Dependent claim 18 depends on claim 27. Accordingly, claim 18 is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not indicate whether claim 31 was allowable or rejected. Applicant submits that claim 31 is allowable and request allowance thereof. Claim 31 depends on allowable claim 27, so is allowable for at least this reason. Claim 31 is also allowable because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest the ultrasonic cleaner guides the treatment liquid introduced from the introduction passage such that fresh treatment liquid is always supplied to the object to be treated.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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